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INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC/USAID WASHDC 0004

UNCLAS KINSHASA 000068

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [HA](#) [CG](#) [KPAO](#) [ECON](#)

SUBJECT: CONGOLESE PRESS GENERALLY POSITIVE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL
RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

REF: STATE 5808

¶1. Kinshasa local press reporting has focused on reports of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (GDRC) pledge to contribute \$2.5 million dollars in emergency assistance. Pro-government and independent papers have reacted positively to this decision, and have argued, despite criticism from some Congolese opinion-makers, the GDRC should be commended for its decision. One pro-government editorial from January 20 was headlined "We are All Haitians," commending the reported GDRC decision to provide \$2.5 million in emergency aid. Other independent editorials from that same day have also asserted that it is the duty of all African countries to help Haiti.

¶2. Congolese bloggers, both based in the DRC and diaspora, have written generally positive posts concerning the aid efforts, with the exception of Cedric Kalonji, a former Okapi journalist now living in France, who wrote a brief article critical of DRC aid to Haiti while the DRC faced its own development challenges.

¶3. Other reporting on international relief efforts in Haiti has been neutral. PAS Kinshasa continues to monitor media reaction to international relief activities, and will continue to promote U.S. public messages by transmitting America.gov articles, delivering podcasts of USG principal remarks to local radio outlets, and highlighting key USG policy messages on Haiti to press and local opinion makers.

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